

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claims 1. to 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A snowboard boot strap mounting system comprising:

an ankle strap arrangement including an instep pad;

a first strap anchor operatively associated with the ankle strap arrangement, and having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap, and wherein the strap anchor raised portion comprises at least three separate mounting locations, the strap anchor including a base portion for attachment to a snowboard boot upper and the ankle strap arrangement having a first distal end for attachment to the first strap anchor; and

a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to the first strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the first strap anchor is attached to the medial side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement is connected to the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 further comprising a second strap anchor having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of the ankle strap and the instep pad, wherein the raised portion comprises at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion for attachment to the snowboard boot upper.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second strap anchor is attached to the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement is configured for attachment to a selected mounting location of the second strap anchor.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the first strap anchor raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of the ankle strap arrangement.

14. (Previously Presented) A snowboard boot comprising:

an outsole;

an upper connected to the outsole;

an ankle strap arrangement including an instep pad arranged to overlie the upper and having first and second distal ends attached to first and second attachment locations, the ankle strap arrangement having an adjustable length; and

at least one strap anchor that includes a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap and comprising at least three separate mounting locations, and a thin base portion, the strap anchor affixed to the boot upper in at least one of the first and second attachment locations;

wherein at least one of the distal ends of the ankle strap is removably mounted to a selected mounting location of the strap anchor.

15. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 further comprising a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to the strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.

16. (Previously Presented) The snowboard boot of claim 14 further comprising a second strap anchor having a raised portion with height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of the ankle strap and instep pad and comprising at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion attached to the other of the first and second attachment locations.

17. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

18. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

19. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein the strap anchor raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of the ankle strap arrangement.